

DigiCell
4G LTE
ADVANCED

PRESS RELEASE

BTL LAUNCHES REGION'S FIRST 4G LTE ADVANCED NETWORK

- Belize City December 23, 2016

On December 16, 2016 Belize Telemedia Ltd (BTL) formally launched its brand new 4G LTE Advanced network under the company's DigiCell mobile banner. It is being recognized as the first commercial deployment of an LTE Advanced Network in the Central American and Caribbean Region.

Together with vendor-partner Huawei Technologies Ltd, this ambitious project saw the total "rip and replacement" of all key hardware and software elements of the previous mobile network at both the core and the periphery - and the full replacement at both the 2G and HSPA+ layers to go along with the introduction of LTE technology.

"Working with BTL has been an outstanding partnership from the start" said Ming He, General Manager of Huawei USA. He continued by stating "we set out to build a special, leading-edge network with the technology that would allow BTL to deliver excellent service to its customers and be a leader in the region."

Chairman of BTL Executive Committee, Anwar Barrow, noted: "This outstanding achievement of launching the region's most advanced mobile network represents an important milestone for the company. We maintain that it is critical to the ongoing progress and viability of both BTL and the entire country that we are able to equip Belizeans with the telecommunications infrastructure that places the nation on equal footing with anyone anywhere else in the world."

"You would recall that some two years ago, we had set out and communicated to our shareholders and the public a plan to radically transform the company to a commercially led, customer centric organization. While there remains still much to do, it is accomplishments like this which demonstrate that the BTL team is keeping its word and making good on its promises."

Barrow added that the project continues past the launch date: "There still remains many underserved communities across Belize in respect of mobile telephony. Thus next year [2017], we will be adding up to 50 additional cell sites in towns and villages across the country so as to boost mobile coverage considerably. We expect to add at least 11 of these sites by end of March".

The 4G LTE mobile project is part of a \$100 million multi-year capital enhancement initiative by BTL to radically transform and upgrade the company's mobile, landline and broadband infrastructure so as to bring these platforms up to the standards of leading technology jurisdictions around the world.

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